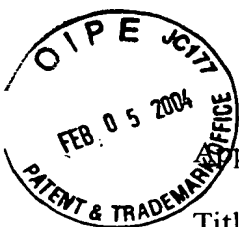


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Atty. Dkt. No. 016907-1229



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tatsuya HARAGUCHI et al.

Title: ADVERTISEMENT INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEM

Appl. No.: 09/846,023

Filing Date: 05/01/2001

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 2171

RECEIVED

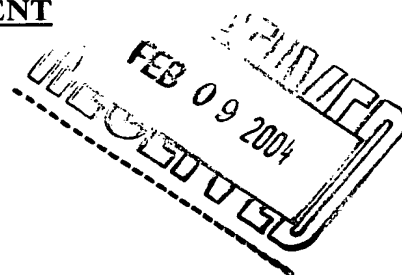
FEB 06 2004

Technology Center 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:



Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

In addition, in a counterpart Japanese application, a Japanese Office Action issued on January 6, 2004. According to an English translation of the Japanese Office Action obtained by the applicant's representative, as relevant to the claims in that counterpart application, the Japanese Patent Office pointed to reference A2 as disclosing switching of information in paragraph [0008]. Further, in the context of the claims of the Japanese counterpart application, the Japanese Patent Office pointed to reference A3 as disclosing the relationship between issue of coupons and marketing.

As noted, the statements noted above are based on an English translation obtained by Applicant's representative. The summary above of the statements in the Japanese Office Action should in no way be taken as an indication that Applicant agrees with the statements contained therein. The statement of relevance should not be construed as an admission of or agreement to the opinions expressed in the Japanese Office Action.

Document A1 relates to a coupon dispenser and method for generating coupons.

Documents A1 and A4 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

Documents A3 and A5 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

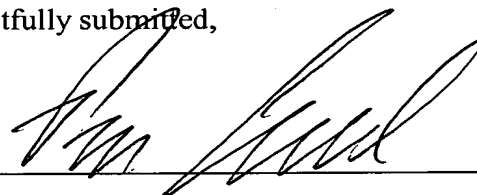
English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). An English language abstract is provided for document A2.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Pavan K. Agarwal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 40,888

Date February 5, 2004

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Date Submitted **February 5, 2004**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/846,023
Filing Date	05/01/2001
First Named Inventor	Tatsuya HARAGUCHI
Group Art Unit	2171
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	016907-1229

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A1	JP	2001-511568	A	JOHN T. MATTHIAS	08-14-2001		
	A2	JP	11-328222	A	HIDEKI FUTAMATA	11-30-1999		Abstract
	A3	JP	2001-504252	A	INTERACTIVE COUPON MARKETING GROUP	03-27-2001		
	A4	WO	99/05630	A1	JOHN T. MATTHIAS	02-04-1999		
	A5	WO	97/05555	A1	INTERACTIVE COUPON MARKETING GROUP	02-13-1997		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.